AMENDMENTS TO ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus ~~(10)~~ for manufacturing an optical component ~~(1)~~ having at least one photo-oriented polymeric layer is provided. The apparatus includes a single source of laser radiation ~~(11)~~, beam splitting means ~~(13)~~ for splitting the laser radiation into a first beam ~~(14)~~ of linearly ~~polarised~~ polarized light having a first plane of ~~polarisation~~ polarization (P ~~polarisation~~polarization) and a second beam ~~(15)~~ of linearly ~~polarised~~ polarized light having a second plane of ~~polarisation~~ polarization (S ~~polarisation~~polarization), first directing means for directing the first beam of linearly ~~polarised~~ polarized light onto a first area or areas of at least one photo-orientatable polymeric layer to cause a first molecular orientation in said first area or areas of the layer and second directing means for directing the second beam of linearly ~~polarised~~ polarized light onto said photo-orientatable polymeric layer to cause a second molecular orientation in a second area or areas of the layer. The apparatus includes delay means ~~(17, 18, 19)~~ for the second beam ~~(15)~~ of linearly ~~polarised~~ polarized light so that the second beam arrives at the photo-orientatable polymeric layer a predetermined delay time after the first beam of linearly ~~polarised~~ polarized light.